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Title:**PHONE-TO-PHONE INTERNET PHONE EXCHANGE SYSTEM****Document Type and Number:**

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Link to this page:<http://www.freepatentsonline.com/WO1998012860.html>**Abstract:**

The phone-to-phone internet phone exchange system or the phone-to-phone internet server of the present invention includes computer controller (3), encoder (1), decoder (2), tone encoder (3), dialler (6), ring indicator (7), and Internet interface device (or modem) (5). When a person telephones to a caller-side server with his phone unit, the computer controller (3) of the caller-side server identifies this call by checking the ring indicator (7). Then it controls the hook controller (4) to connect the caller's phone line to the server. After connecting to the caller's phone, it transfers voice guidance messages data through the decoder, which converts voice digital data to analog voice signals that the caller can hear on his phone unit. According to guidance messages, the caller selects an appropriate service among a call, fax, and voice mail, and depresses the phone number that he wants to call. The computer controller (3) receives that phone number through the tone encoder, and analyzes the phone number to identify country or area for finding out a proper receiver-side server address. After finding out the receiver-side server, the computer controller (3) of the caller-side server sends the phone number to the receiver-side server through Internet network line.

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H04M3/426; H04M3/533; H04M7/00

Claims:

[CLAIMS]

1. The phonetophone Internet phone exchange system (server) includes a computer controller, encoder, decoder, tone encoder, dialer, ring indicator, and Internet interface device (or modem). Encoder is for converting analog voice signals on the phone line to digital voice data by the computer controller. These converted digital voice data will then be sent to the opposite side phonetophone server. Decoder is for converting digital voice data received from other server through Internet network to analog voice signals. These converted analog voice signal will be sent to the caller (or receiver) through phone network line by the server. In a digital phone, these decoder and encoder performs a modem function. Tone encoder is for identifying phone numbers, which are entered by the caller through phone network line, by the computer controller. These identified phone numbers will be sent to the opposite server and be used for calling a opposite receiver. Nation code digits or area code digits of phone number, identified by the caller side server, are used to find a Internet address of a receiverside server. Dialer is for calling a receiver through phone network line by the receiverside server. When the receiverside server receives a requested phone number sent by the callerside server, ring indicator is for checking that there are any call on a callerside server. The computer controller of the callerside server identifies a requested call on a callerside phone network line by checking the ring indicator. ZS Hook controller is for connecting phone network line to the server by the computer controller when there are phone calls from a caller through phone network line or requested calls from the callerside server. Internet interface device is for connecting computer controller to Internet network to exchange digital data with other server. In this server system, a caller can select a call, fax, or voice mail service by choosing an appropriate phone digit according to the voice guidance from the caller side server. And it is also possible to select a call, fax, or voice mail service by depressing service code digits before entering the phone number on the phone unit of the caller. The overall operation is as follows. A person, who wants to call through Internet, telephones to a callerside server with his phone unit, through phone network line. The computer controller of the caller side server identifies this call by checking the ring indicator. Then the computer controller controls the hook controller to connect the caller's phone line to the server. After connecting to the caller's phone, the computer controller transfers voice guidance messages data through the decoder, which converts voice digital data to analog voice signal so that the caller can hear on his phone unit. According to guidance messages, the caller selects an appropriate service among a call, fax, and voice mail, and depresses the phone number that he wants to call. The computer controller receives that phone number through the tone encoder, and analyzes the phone number to identify country or area for finding out the proper receiverside server address. After finding out the receiverside server, the computer controller of the callerside server sends the phone number, received from the caller, to the receiverside server through Internet network line by using the Internet interface controller of the caller side server. The computer controller of the receiverside server gets the phone number through Internet network line by using the Internet interface device of the receiverside server, dialer to the receiver by using its hook controller and dialer, and connects to the receiver. After connecting to the receiver, the computer controller of the receiver side server gets the receiver's voice signals as voice digital data by using the encoder through phone network line, and sends these voice digital data to the caller side server by using the Internet interface controller. It also receives the caller's voice digital data sent by the caller side server through Internet network line, and converts these caller's voice data to analog voice signals by using the decoder. These analog voice signals are inputted on the receiver side phone line to be heard by the receiver by the computer controller of the receiver side server for the receiver to hear the caller's talk. On the other hand, the callerside server performs the same control procedures as that of the receiverside server described above. As the callerside and the receiverside server of the present invention perform the above controls, the caller and receiver can talk with ordinary phones through Internet network line with low phone charge.

Description:

DESCRIPTION

PHONE-TO-PHONE INTERNET PHONE EXCHANGE SYSTEM

[TECHNICAL FIELD]

This invention relates to Internet phone exchange system. Particularly this invention relates to a phone-to-phone Internet phone exchange system.

[BACKGROUND ART]

The majority of Internet telephone exchange system is PC(personal computer)-to-PC system or PC-to-phone system.

In PC-to-PC system, a caller's voice, encoded to digital data by the PC

10 equipped with microphone and sound card, are transferred to opposite receiver's PC through Internet network. And these transferred voice digital data are decoded to analog voice signals by the receiver's computer sound card and speaker, and the receiver can hear the caller's voices. The receiver's voice

encoded to digital data by the PC equipped with microphone and sound card, is also transferred to the opposite caller's PC through Internet network. And these transferred caller's voice digital data are also decoded to analog voice signals for caller to hear the receiver's voice. By doing so, caller can talk to the receiver on the PC-to-PC Internet phone. In PC-to-phone system, a caller's voices, encoded to digital data by the PC

equipped with microphone and sound card, are transferred to a opposite receiver-side phone server through Internet network. And these digital data are converted to original voice signals by the phone server and are sent to the receiver phone through phone network line. The voice signals on a receiver's phone are also sent to the phone server on

the side of the receiver through phone network, and are encoded to digital data by the phone server. These digital data are then transferred to the caller's PC and decoded to voice signal by the PC with a speaker and a sound card. By doing so, a caller with PC can talk with a receiver with a phone through Internet network.

The above two Internet phone exchange systems in the prior art have the

disadvantage that a person, who does not have a PC equipped with a microphone, a speaker, and a sound card, can not use Internet phone. Thus, there exists a need for Internet phone exchange system that is available for persons with only phone to telephone each other.

6. DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

It is an object of this invention to provide a phone-to-phone Internet phone exchange system (server).

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a Internet phone exchange system that enable persons with only phone to telephone together. It is a further object of the present invention to provide the means for a person to telephone to the other person with ordinary phone easily and cheaply.

Further objects of the present invention will be made apparent in the following Best Modes For Carrying Out Invention and the appended claims.

1-JT The foregoing objects are accomplished in the preferred embodiment of the invention by a phone-to-phone Internet server (phone exchange system) that a caller can talk together with a receiver through Internet network line. The phone-to-phone Internet server includes a computer controller, encoders, decoders, tone encoders, dialers, ring indicators, and Internet I/O interface devices (or modem).

Encoder is for converting analog voice signals on the phone line to digital voice data by the computer controller. These converted digital voice data will then be sent to the opposite side phone-to-phone server. Decoder is for converting digital voice data received from other server.

3-5" through Internet network to analog voice signals. These converted analog voice signal will be sent to the caller (or receiver) through phone network line by the server. Tone encoder is for identifying phone numbers, which are entered by the caller through phone network line, by the computer controller. These identified phone number will be sent to the opposite server and be

30 used for calling a opposite receiver.

Nation code digits or area code digits of phone number, identified by the caller-side server, are used to find out a Internet address of a receiver-side server.

Dialer is for calling a receiver through phone network line by the receiver-side

server, when the receiver-side server receives a requested phone number sent by the caller-side server.

Ring indicator is for checking that there are any call on a caller-side server. The computer controller of the caller-side server identifies a requested call on a caller-side phone network line by checking the ring indicator.

Hook controller is for connecting phone network line to the server by the computer controller when there are phone calls from a caller through phone network line or a requested call message from the caller-side server. Internet interface controller or device is for connecting computer controller to

Internet network to exchange digital data with other server.

In this server system, a caller can select a call, fax, or voice mail service by choosing an appropriate

phone digit according to the voice guidance from the caller-side server. And it is also possible to select a call, fax, or voice mail service by depressing service code digits before entering the phone number on the phone unit of the caller.

The overall operation is as follows. A person, who wants to call through Internet, telephones to a caller-side server with his phone unit, through phone network line.

2A The computer controller of the caller-side server identifies this call by checking the ring indicator. Then the computer controller controls the hook controller to connect the caller's phone line to the server. After connecting to the caller, the computer controller transfers voice guidance messages data through the decoder, which converts voice digital data to analog voice signal.

2B It is that the caller can hear on his phone unit.

According to guidance messages, the caller selects an appropriate service among a call, fax, and voice mail, and depresses the phone number that he wants to call. The computer controller receives that phone number through the tone encoder.

2C Then, and analyze the phone number to identify a country or area for finding out a proper receiver-side server address. After finding out the receiver-side server, the computer controller of the caller-side server sends the phone number, received from the caller, to the receiver-side server through Internet network line by using the Internet interface controller of the caller-side server (5). The computer controller of the receiver-side server gets the phone number through Internet network line by using the Internet interface controller of the

receiver-side server, dials to the receiver by using its hook controller and dialer, and connects to the receiver. After connecting to the receiver, the computer controller of the receiver-side server gets the receiver's voice signals as voice digital data by using of the encoder through phone network line, and

2D sends these voice digital data to the caller-side server by using of the Internet interface controller. It also receives the caller's voice digital data sent by the caller-side server through Internet network line, and converts these caller's voice data to analog voice signals by using the decoder. These analog voice signals are inputted on the receiver-side phone network line to be heard by the computer controller of the receiver-side server for the receiver to hear the caller's talk.

On the other hand, the caller-side server performs the same control procedures as that of the receiver-side server described above. As the caller-side and the receiver-side server of the present invention perform the above controls, the caller and receiver can talk with ordinary phones through Internet network line with low phone charge.

[BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS]

Fig. 1 is an overall schematic view of the preferred embodiment of Internet phone exchange system of the present invention, and Fig. 2 is an overall operation configuration view of the present invention in Internet network. Fig. 3 is an overall control flow chart of the present invention.

[BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT INVENTION]

Referring now to the drawings and particularly to Fig. 1, there is shown therein an overall schematic view of the preferred embodiment of Internet phone exchange system of the present invention.

In Fig. 1, the phone-to-phone Internet server includes computer controller 8, encoder 1, decoder 2, tone encoder 3, dialer 6, ring indicator 7, and Internet interface device (or modem) 9. Encoder 1 is for converting analog voice signals on the phone line to digital voice data by the computer controller. These converted digital voice data will

then be sent to the opposite site phone-to-phone server. Decoder 2 is for converting digital voice data received from the other server through Internet network to analog voice signals. These converted analog voice signal will be sent to the caller (or receiver) through phone network line

6- by the server.

Tone encoder 3 is for identifying phone number, which are entered by the caller through phone network line, by the computer controller 8. This identified phone number will be sent to the opposite server and be used for calling a opposite receiver.

10 Nation code digits or area code digits of the phone number, identified by the caller-side server, are used to find out an Internet address of a receiver-side server.

Dialer 6 is for calling a receiver through phone network line by the receiver-side server, when the receiver-side server receives a requested phone number.

IS sent by the caller-side server.

Ring indicator 7 is for checking that there are any call on a caller-side server. The computer controller 8 of the caller-side server identifies a requested call on caller-side phone network line by checking the ring indicator 7. Hook controller 4 is for connecting phone network line to the server by the III computer controller 5 when there are phone calls from a caller through phone network line or requested calls from the caller-side server. Internet interface controller 9 is for connecting the computer controller 8 to Internet network to exchange digital data with other server. In this server system, a caller can select a call, fax, or voice mail service by S choosing an appropriate phone digit according to the voice guidance from the caller-side server.

And it is also possible to select a call, fax, or voice mail service by depressing service code digits before entering the phone number on the phone unit of the caller. 0 The overall operation is as follows. A person, who wants to call through Internet, telephones to a caller-side server with his phone unit, through phone network line.

The computer controller 8 of the caller-side server identifies this call by checking the ring indicator 7. Then the computer controller controls the hook controller 4 to connect the caller's phone line to the server. After connecting to the caller's phone, the computer controller transfers voice guidance messages data through the decoder, which converts voice digital data to analog voice signals that the caller can hear on his phone unit.

According to guidance messages, the caller selects an appropriate service among a call, fax, and voice mail, and depresses the phone number that he wants to call.

ST is to call.

The computer controller 8 receives that phone number through the tone encoder, and analyzes the phone number to identify a country or area for finding out a proper receiver-side server address. After finding out the receiver-side server, the computer controller 8 of the caller-side server sends the phone number, received from the caller, to the receiver-side server through Internet network line by using the Internet interface controller 9 of the caller-side server.

The computer controller of the receiver-side server gets the phone number through Internet network line by using the Internet interface controller of the

IS receiver-side server, dials to the receiver by using of its hook controller 4 and dialer 6, and connects to the receiver. After connecting to the receiver, the computer controller 8 of the receiver-side server gets the receiver's voice signals as voice digital data by using of the encoder through phone network line, and sends these voice digital data to the caller-side server by using of

the Internet interface controller 9, it also receives the caller's voice digital data sent by the caller-side server through Internet network line, and converts these caller's voice data to analog voice signals by using the decoder. These analog voice signals are inputted on the receiver-side phone network line by the computer controller of the receiver-side server for the receiver.

2T to hear the caller's talk

In Fig. 2, an overall operation configuration view of the present invention in Internet network is shown.

Ordinary phone units 40, 100 are used for telephoning by a caller or receiver. Phone networks 50, 90 are connected to the Internet phone exchange systems

30 (servers) 80, 80, which are connected through Internet network 70.

Following are the descriptions of the operation principles of this invention according to Fig. 3, Fig.2, and Fig.1

When the computer controller 8 is operated, it initializes all subsidiary controllers and itself in Step 200 of Fig. 3, and goes to Step 210. In Step

210, it checks the ring indicator 7 to see whether there is a call.

If there is a call, it goes to Step 220, receives the call by controlling the

hook controller 4, checks a current task. If there is other task, it goes to Step 230, sends waiting signals or waiting voice messages to the caller, and returns to Step 210. If it is idle without other task in Step 220, it goes to Step 240. In Step 240, the computer controller 8 asks the caller to select a service among a call, a voice message, and a fax service through the decoder 2, and requests the caller to depress a service digit button on the phone unit.

If the caller enters the requesting service digit, the computer controller 8 10 receives this digit through the tone encoder 3, identifies this digit, and goes to each requested service processing Step.

If the digit is for requesting a call, it goes to Step 250, announces the caller in voice message that the selected service is a call service, and prompts the caller to enter a receiver's phone number by the voice message.

If the caller enters the receiver's phone number, the computer controller receives it through the tone encoder 3, announces the entered phone number, as voice message, to the caller for confirming the phone number. By analyzing this confirmed phone number, the computer controller 8 specifies the Internet address of a server that is located in the closest nation.

20 and area of the receiver, and connects to the server through Internet network line. In this case, the computer controller 8 have a world-wide Internet phone-to-phone server address list, or searches the receiver-side Internet server address from a Internet phone-to-phone address managing server that has been built already.

25 Connecting the receiver-side server through Internet network line, the computer controller 8 sends the receiver's phone number to the receiver-side server.

After receiving the receiver's phone number, the receiver-side server dials to the receiver by using the dialer 6 through the local phone network line. If to the receiver responses, the receiver-side server sends on-line signals to the caller-side server through Internet network line. Then, the caller-side server sends on-line signals or messages to the caller, and starts to talk each other. During on-line, each server converts analog voice signals, coming to the

30 server through the phone network line, to digital voice data, divides them to packet data in the constant time interval according to Internet transmission

specification, and sends them to the opposite server.

Each server also receives digital voice data coming from the opposite server through Internet network line, converts these voice data to analog voice signals by using the decoder 2, and sends them to the phone through phone

35 network line. Above processing control continues until the caller or receiver hooks off the phone.

If any server detects the signal that phone is hooked off, the computer controller 8 goes to Step 250 from Step 210. If the caller selects a voice mail service request digit in Step 240, the

40 computer controller 8 goes to Step 260, and sends the voice messages to the caller that the caller is requested to enter phone number. As the caller enters a receiver's phone number, the caller-side server ensures this phone number to the caller, analyzes this number to determine the Internet address of the receiver-side server, stores this Internet address.

45 and sends the caller voice guidance messages through phone network line by using the decoder 2, that requests the caller's voice messages for the receiver and the identification digit button for showing the end of the caller's messages. While the caller speaks voice mail messages according to these guidance messages, the computer controller 8 convert these analog voice mail messages into digital voice mail data by using the encoder 1, packs these digital voice data and the receiver's phone number as a file, and sends this file to the receiver-side server through Internet network line. After sending that file to the receiver-side server, the computer controller of

50 the caller-side server returns to Step 210 from Step 260.

If the caller selects a fax service in Step 240, it goes to Step 270, announces the caller that a fax service is selected, and requests the receiver-side fax number. As the caller enters the receiver's fax number, the computer controller 8 receives this number through the tone encoder 3.

55 analyzes this number, determines the receiver-side server, and memorizes the receiver's fax

number.

Next, the computer controller 8 asks the caller to send the fax data, receives fax data from the caller, and stores these data in its memory device.

^ It also combines the received fax data and fax number as a file, sends the file to the receiver-side server, and return to Step 210 from Step 270 after

sending the file.

If no call by checking the ring indicator 7 in Step 210, it goes to Step 280, and checks the call requested through Internet network line 10 and the internet interface controller 8 by the other server. If no call requested by the opposite server, it goes to Step 210, and if a call requested, it goes to Step 290.

In Step 290, the computer controller checks its current processing loads, and if busy state due to other processing service, it goes to Step 300, send's a waiting signal to the opposite server through Internet network line, and

10 returns to Step 210.

If idle state in Step 290, it goes to Step 310, checks which service request has been arrive from the opposite server by analyzing the file data sent from the opposite server. If a call is requested, it goes to Step 320, finds out the receiver's phone number in the sent file data, and calls the receiver by using

IS the dialer 6. If no response from the receiver, it sends no receiving state message to the opposite server through Internet network line, if a response from the receiver, it sends a receiving state message to the opposite server. After receiving this receiving state message, each server converts analog voice signals or digital voice data, to digital voice data or analog voice signals by using the encode 1 and the decoder 2, and exchanges digital voice data with the opposite server in order for the caller and the receiver can talk together. If it detects hook-off during the on-line, it goes to Step 210 from Step 320. If the requested service is a voice mail service in Step 310, it goes to Step

■45 330, find out the receiver's phone number in the sent file data, and dials with this phone number.

If a response by the receiver, the computer controller 8 of the receiver-side server sends voice mail messages through the decoder, and asks the receiver to depress a confirmation button digit. If no confirmation button digit, it dials to the receiver again in a constant time interval. If receiving a confirmation signal through the tone encoder 3, it sends completion message to the opposite server, and returns to Step 210 from Step 330. If the requested service is a fax service in Step 310, it goes to Step 340, S' finds out the receiver's phone number in the received file, and dials with this phone number by using the dialer 6.

If a response by the receiver, the computer controller 8 of the receiver-side server sends fax data through the decoder 2, and asks the receiver to depress a confirmation button digit. If no confirmation button digit, it dials to the receiver again in a constant time interval. If receiving a confirmation signal through the tone encoder 3, it sends completion message to the opposite server, and returns to Step 210 from Step 340.

By the above control process, the internet phone-to-phone exchange system (server) of the present invention enable a caller and a receiver to have a call, a fax, or a voice mail service only with a ordinary phone.

In the foregoing description certain terms have been used for brevity, clarity and understanding, however no unnecessary limitations are to be implied therefrom because such terms are for descriptive purposes and are intended to be broadly construed. Moreover, the descriptions and limitations are by way of examples and the invention is not limited to the details shown and described.

[INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY]

The internet phone-to-phone exchange system (server) of the present invention enable a caller and a receiver to have a call, a fax, or a voice mail service only with a ordinary phone or fax machine cheaply.

So, the present invention can be applied to a long distance call, international call, a fax, and voice mail service of a ordinary phone or fax machine.

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